

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2431

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECoul 1738

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS SHUM KN KS US

SUBJ: EXPIRATION OF USG PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO
NORTH KOREA AND OTHER COUNTRIES; HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 46521

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL, I SAY ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER YOON MORNING MARCH 3 TO INFORM HIM OF THE
CHANGES BEING CONTEMPLATED ON PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS. I
SHOWED HIM A SAMPLE OF OUR CURRENT PASSPORTS AND WAS, THERE-
FORE, ABLE TO POINT OUT THE LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS AS
REFLECTED IN OUR CURRENT PASSPORTS. I ALSO SHOWED HIM A
SAMPLE OF STATEMENT WE PROVIDE TRAVELERS TO EASTERN EUROPE,
PARTICULARLY THE COMMENTARY ON ALBANIA. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM
THAT THIS CHANGE IN OUR PASSPORTS DID NOT REPRESENT ANY
CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA. YOON STATED THAT
SINCE THERE WAS NO CHANGE OF POLICY, HE CONSIDERED THE
PASSPORT REVISION TO BE PRIMARILY AN INTERNAL U.S. MATTER
AND, THEREFORE, HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY CONCERNED. I
DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROLS,
SINCE THE PHRASE "PARTIAL ADJUSTMENTS" WAS TOO IMPRECISE
FOR ANY MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE. IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES
ME TO RAISE THAT MATTER WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER,
I WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE, INCLUDING
A MORE PRECISE STATEMENT OF WHAT ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.
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2. NEW SUBJECT: I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER A COPY OF A PICTURE THAT APPEARED
IN MARCH 2 MORNING'S JAPAN TIMES, WHICH SHOWS MRS. LEE
WOO JONG BEING CARRIED AWAY BY THREE PLAINCLOTHES
POLICEMEN. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS PICTURE WOULD NOT BE
AT ALL HELPFUL AND THAT IT WOULD, IF CARRIED IN U.S.

NESPAPERS, GIVE RISE TO ADDITIONAL NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA. I TOLD YOON THAT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND HOW ONE HUMAN COULD BE SUCH A GREAT DANGER TO THE REPUBLIC. IN RESPONSE, I WAS PROVIDED WITH A 30 MINUTE, NON-STOP LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC SINCE WORLD WAR II AND THE SERIOUS POTENTIAL RISKS THAT PEOPLE LIKE MRS. LEE WOO JONG REPRESENT. WE ENDED THE EXTENDED CONVERSATION BY AGREEING THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC COULD BE PROVIDED A MORE BALANCED PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN KOREA AND THAT THE ROKG HAD TO SHOW MORE EVIDENCE OF CONCERN FOR THE DIFFICULTIES THAT PICTURES OF THE KIND WHICH APPEARED IN THE JAPAN TIMES CREATED FOR THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND THE ROKG AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. I DID NOT MENTION TO YOON THAT A SIMILAR PICTURE AND A VERY LONG STORY APPEARED IN THE MARCH 3 STARS AND STRIPES.

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